

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1339

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004

PRIVATE DOCTORS IN POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAMME

Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati; Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed; Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to include private doctors in the population stabilization programme in 210 demographically weak districts by providing them loans to set up or improve their primary health facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether wide availability of a variety of contraceptive measures and quality health care delivery are crucial;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government considers the empowerment of women to be part of this endeavour;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether women's empowerment and enhanced socio-economic status lead to lower total fertility rates (life time births per woman); and
- (h) if so, the fact of the matter in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes sir, the Government is exploring the option of improving access to comprehensive Health and Family Welfare services in demographically weak districts through increased Public-Private Partnership for health. Banks have been requested to consider giving soft loan to private doctors to set up/upgrade health clinics for this purpose in these districts.

(c) & (d) Yes sir. The Government aims to address high unmet need for family planning services in these districts by widening the basket of contraceptives, and improving the availability of quality of family planning products and services through social marketing and social franchisee.

(e) & (f) Yes sir, high priority is assigned to empowerment of women. For this purpose, inter sectoral coordination is being pursued with the Departments of Women and Child Development, Elementary Education and Rural Development.

(g) & (h) Yes, it has been observed that the Total Fertility Rate(TFR) goes down with the increased level of women's education and empowerment. This is apparent from the success of the Family Welfare Programme in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.